freedom
Anarchist Weekly 4d

MAY 21 1966 Vol 27 No 16

Towards the Fingerprint State

AN INTERESTING GLIMPSE of the 'liberal' mentality has been provided by the recent proposal to fingerprint everybody in Britain.

Writing in support of the proposal in the *Sun* for May 12, C. H. Rolph, ex-policeman turned 'progressive' says that:

'The idea of fingerprinting us all would stir up less fuss now than it would have done 20 years ago, when we were still hating our identity cards. But there would still be quite a rumpus.

'Look what happened in the case of compulsory schooling, vaccination for smallpox, conscription for military service, dog licences, even jury service.'

He then goes on to argue that national fingerprinting would be beneficial, not only because it would help the police, but also one citizen to distinguish himself from another, the tracing of missing persons, the genuineness of pensioners, etc. In other words, 'identification' for official purposes would be more efficient.

Rolph's case really amounts to the justification of another invasion of individual life by the State on the grounds of previous invasions. Because we are, or can be, conscripted, compulsorily schooled, vaccinated and dog-licensed, then there is no reason why we should not be fingerprinted. Given his premise, his case is logical. But anarchism is a direct challenge to his premise—anarchists deny the 'right' of the State to compel the individual to do anything.

Whatever side-benefits for the more benevolent forms of bureaucracy fingerprinting might produce, however it might increase the efficiency of distinguishing one unit of an ever-increasing population from another, I, for one, opt for the old 'inefficiency' and the lesser danger of social usurpation it represents.

In the *Daily Mail* of the same date, that doughty champion of 'dissent', Bernard Levin, adds his support to the proposal. His argument, however, is a bit more qualified. After all, he has his reputation as an 'enfant terrible' to consider.

He lightly dismisses the objection that fingerprinting would be an 'encroachment on our civil liberties', tut-tuts the danger of it being a step towards a more regimented society, and clinches his argument in favour of the *principle* of fingerprinting by listing the other compulsory registrations that we have to undergo.

However, being a 'radical' he expresses some doubts about the *practical* application of the scheme. He wants to know who is going to administer it, whether it is not another 'bent-copper's vademecum', if the computers needed will be accurate, etc. If these doubts can be settled he is willing to be fingerprinted if he is asked 'politely'! (Dear Mr. Levin, would you please put your head in this noose? . . .)

Both these 'progressive' writers typify the reformatory attitude of liberalism. They have not real objection to the submergence of the individual under the State machine. The criticisms they may or do express are only designed to *improve* the working of the machine to

MURDER Inc.

THE BRITISH *LABOUR* Government has entered the murder racket, but, of course, there is no moral issue involved because the selling is nationalised.

One never ceases to wonder how low this Labour Government can go on the question of principles, this latest act means they are scraping the barrel in order to support the system.

Mr. Dennis Healey was pleased to announce that Mr. Raymond Brown had been appointed head of defence sales with a salary of £8,000 a year. Seamen, please note, obviously the selling of murder is more important than your job.

When Mr. Healey was questioned on

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THE NEWS that our Spanish comrades kidnapped Mgr. Ussia, the Spanish Embassy's ecclesiastical counsellor to the 'Holy See' in order to attract international publicity for Spanish political prisoners is welcomed by us on many accounts.

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Secondly, it has shown that anarchists respect personal freedom and human life by releasing the man safe and sound.

Thirdly, it gave the lie to the accusation that anarchists have become inactive in their opposition to Franco's regime.

We congratulate our comrades of the FIJL (Iberian Youth) on this achievement.

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When Mr. Healey was questioned on the sale of arms to America for the possible use in Vietnam he replied, 'About Vietnam, we regard the United States as a country to whom we are perfectly free and anxious to sell arms and we would not seek to impose any limitation on the use of the arms we sell'. At the risk of a cliché, 'One doesn't bite the hand that feeds one!'

One MP, Mr. John Rankin, likened this appointment to the former appointment of Basil Zaharoff. Healey's classic reply, 'There is an immense difference between the activities of a private manufacturer of arms and the activities of a Government servant in seeking to promote sales of British defence equipment in line with the policy of the Government'.

Even the *Sunday Telegraph* (15.5.66), posed the question, 'In the master's steps?'

There is only one basic formula for selling arms—playing one country's buyer against another. Which is an excellent stimulant to the Cold War. Every country has a vested interest in maintaining this policy, otherwise their national economies would begin to look a bit sick.

The frightening thing about the whole affair is the apparent lack of interest by the majority of the members of the Labour and Trade Union movements. Or is the sale of arms permissible provided it is carried out under a Labour Government?

I suggest that Mr. Raymond Brown and Lord Chalfont (Minister of Disarmament) get together to discuss tactics, if peace should break out they might both be on National Assistance (we hope).

BILL CHRISTOPHER.

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Were Mussolini and Hitler still alive they would surely get great and sardonic satisfaction from witnessing how yet another 'bastion of freedom' is proposing to follow even further in their footsteps.

S. E. PARKER.

RESIST THIS!

IN GREAT BRITAIN FINGERPRINTING MAY BECOME COMPULSORY?

Although the news was not entirely a surprise I am appalled at the announcement that fingerprinting may become compulsory in Great Britain. Here is the item from the *Guardian*.

'Compulsory fingerprinting of everybody in Britain is being considered by the Home Office as a possible weapon against crime. A Home Office spokesman said last night it was just one of many ideas being examined as part of the present fundamental review of crime-fighting methods.'

It is not necessary for me to say that this is nothing but a step which could lead towards making Britain a Police State. Without going into its implications I want to appeal to all peace movements and those interested in the liberty of the individual in this country to react against this without any delay. The Authorities must know how opposed the British public is to such a step.

DEVI PRASAD,
Secretary,
War Resisters' International.
Enfield, Middx.

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Britain was willing to back the Africans up a little way because her economy depended more on Zambian copper than it did on Rhodesian tobacco. If however Britain in order to break the Smith régime has to enforce a boycott on South Africa then the Smith régime will stand. I guess that Ian Smith guessed this and that this was the chief card that he had up his sleeve all the time. He knows that if Rhodesia falls as a 'white' man's land then South Africa will certainly be in danger of falling afterwards, not immediately perhaps but inevitably.

Smith must be quite pleased at the way things are going. It has become fairly obvious now that Mr. Wilson is not such a bad guy after all. He is not in favour of force being used to topple the Smith régime and will say so soon, or his representative will, at the United Nations in New York.

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'This rejected any kind of collaboration with the institutions of the present regime and with "those who aim to prolong its agony". The *Movement Libertaire* "does not recognise, and disapproves of, the plans that a group of ex-militants of the syndicalist organisation CNT have worked out with the leaders of official syndicates with a view to possible incorporation within the latter so as to give them a democratic backing".

'It will be remembered that several important CNT leaders held lengthy secret conversations last year in Madrid with the leaders of the Governmental syndicate organisation, at the end of which they signed an agreement to "reinforce the efficacy of the governmental syndicate organisation and avoid the earlier struggles".

'Luis A. Edo declared during his press conference and in the name of the *Mouvement Libertaire* that "the oligarchies are beginning to recognise that the regime is incapable of surviving the death of Franco". He underlined the fact that the regime aimed at stifling popular discontent by creating organisations which present a false appearance of democratisation, and that "various groups who previously were militant in the opposition are lending their weight to this work of enslavement and serving as justification to the regime for the development of its phase of so-called 'liberation'."

'Finally, Edo added that he had tried to have a meeting with former anarcho-syndicalist leaders so as to oblige them to renounce their collaboration with the Falangist syndicates. But, once arrived at the meeting place, he perceived that there was present a greater number of persons than had been agreed, and that they were strategically deployed. In consequence, Edo considered these attempts at contact to be terminated, especially since he intended to stay in Spain and have interviews with militants in the underground movement.'

Now that the Franco regime is on its way out, it is important that the moment of change will not find the Spanish anarchist movement in disarray. Anarchists must co-operate now as never before!

All commentators admit that anarchism is still a living force in Spain.

Fascists, communists and socialists are now competing to filch away by bribes, by threats, by pacts, the great mass of Spanish workers and peasants who would still favour anarchism.

Our opponents know what they want. We must ourselves make sure that we know which organisation is an anarchist one, which a collaborationist, which is defunct and which is alive.

We feel that our comrades in the FIJL could render us further service by informing us:

1. What is the future of the FAI (Anarchist Federation)?

2. How effective is the CNT (National Confederation of Labour) *inside* Spain? Should it be supported by anarchists?

3. What is the truth of A. Roa's statement (*Tribune*) that in 1962 the CNT signed a pact with the UCT (Socialist Union) leading to the formation of the ASO (Alliance of Trade Unions)?

4. Should the ASO be supported by anarchists?

The coming struggle will call for the solidarity of the International Anarchist Movement. But the movement must be informed.

Secrecy is of no use at all when it only confounds those who want to help.

EDITORS.

Behind Their Backs

SIX MONTHS HAVE passed since the illegal Declaration of Independence by Mr. Smith's government, and, far from being brought to their knees by the might of the British Government's sanctions the Rhodesian Front régime appears to be doing quite well.

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Now, Wilson has never said the Africans should have majority rule now. Indeed he went to great pains on his many television speeches during the crisis. He says that there should be one man one vote 'one day' and who is to say what that day is?

enough to worry Kenneth Kaunda, who at last has seen through Wilson's hypocrisy, but alas, what can he do? Bring it up at the UN? It's a waste of time.

The UN cannot free the African people in Rhodesia. Only **they** can do that and apart from the odd one or two they are silent. Are they apathetic? Is African Nationalism just a load of bunk? My guess is that it is and that all this talk of Uniting African Might against Smith and Verwoerd is just a load of hogwash, and the most dangerous thing about it is that those suffering under these

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Of course the tune has changed. At first he would only speak to the Governor, Smith was a renegade, a man in the hands of the 'right wing' of his party. Now, however, the tune has changed enough to worry Kenneth Kaunda, who at last has seen through Wilson's hypocrisy, but alas, what can he do? Bring it up at the UN? It's a waste of time.

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J.S.

NUCLEAR EARTHQUAKE

IN THE RECENT furore over the Chinese and projected French tests another example of nuclear madness has passed unnoticed by the majority of the world's press. The *Economist* has drawn attention to the increase of underground testing (which is not covered by the test ban treaty). Both Russia and America have done a large number of tests in recent months. The American underground tests are known to have numbered 30 since the beginning of the year which is an incredible number even for the Americans with their customary wasteful attitude on military spending. Although only large tests have been detected with any certainty in the Soviet Union it seems likely that a number of smaller ones have passed undetected. The most disconcerting aspect of these tests was breezily revealed by *Time International* recently. A seismologist working in Denver, Colorado, noticed a correlation between earth tremors and tests in nearby Nevada. He then worked out that there was in fact a time lapse before the effect of the underground explosions was received in Denver. After strenuously denying the story for some time the American authorities now admit that the story is true and underground testing has definitely been responsible for earth tremors. Then someone else in the *San Francisco Chronicle* noticed that the recent earth movements along the San Fernando Fault have also been related to the tests.

Although the Americans have admitted the effects of these underground explosions, they have said that these are so minimal that they do not intend to stop testing. It seems that nothing short of a major earthquake will make them

Continued on page 4

ANARCHY 62

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MY NINETEEN-THIRT

SOCIALIST and 'progressive' organisations proliferated. There were meetings galore, protests and petitions galore. I was in the Schoolboys' United Front, voting for resolutions about unemployment and handing out leaflets which said 'Boycott Japanese Goods'. Some of my fellows, however, found other sorts of political ideals and joined the British Union of Fascists. Until it was banned, they came to school in black shirts and wore belts with fasces embossed on the buckle. In the changing-rooms they used to crowd together singing their version of *A Tavern in the Town*:

'A Jew, a Jew a Jew a Jew a Jew a Jew,
A dirty, stinking, thieving Jew. . . .'

The Fascist marches through East London were high tides of political rage, and the nearest equivalent in pre-war days to seaside battles between Mods and Rockers. Somebody took me to the Young Communists' headquarters in the town, where they had an under-the-stairs armoury—doorknobs on sticks, knuckle-dusters and breadknives, all for the march-wars. Getting arrested was a prestige symbol; one boy at school was chivved down his face and became a scarred hero.

It is hard to judge how much it meant. Certainly there was not much genuine indignation. The Fascists were strutting, insufferable larrikins who wanted frankly to bully; to the Communists it was a charade of St. George and some dragon. The people with a real right to anger were the Jews and those who knew what freedom ought to be, and they were probably more alarmed by the British ruling class than by the delinquent flailings of the BUF and the Communists. One ought to say, too, that the police cracked heads equally; but they didn't. Many commentators remarked that their function seemed to be to protect the Fascists from opposition. Fascist marches were, but anti-Fascist demonstrations were not, heavily guarded by the police, and baton charges cleared the way for Mosley processions.

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London, N.19

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WANDSWORTH LIBERTARIANS. Correspondence to Tony Cadman, 116 Tilehurst Road, Earlsfield, London, S.W.19.

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ABERDEEN GROUP. Meets at the Adelphi 2.30 p.m. every Sunday. Correspondence to M. Dey, 29 Springhill Crescent, Aberdeen.

ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.
BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.
BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hunton Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and Committee of 100: Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21. University of Aston Group: Dave Massey, 5 Gladstone Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.
BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.
CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.
DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.
GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Meets 11 Baliol Street every two weeks. Contact Joe Embleton.
HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.
ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.
LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.

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But these, for all their heat and smoke, were only factions. The great majority of the unemployed and poor accepted their fate because they could see no way out of it—or, if they could, were not prepared to go out and get slugged for it. The awful demoralizing effects of chronic unemployment need to be seen to be believed. Men sat on pavements playing cards listlessly all day (usually they were not allowed in the public library reading rooms). You could walk along streets at night, look in curtainless windows and see the obscene nakedness of poverty.

Into this destitute world, too, were injected meagre hopes of hope. Sometimes unspecified: half the popular songs of the time—though none, I think, was ever as popular as *Brother, Can You Spare a Dime*?—were about Blue Skies, or Round the Bend of the Road. The radio had meticulously trivial serials about 'ordinary' families where the best was made of hard times. But, specifically, every newspaper and magazine had prize competitions which dangled thoughts of escape by lottery. The *News of the World* Fashion Contest; 'Bullets'; the *Sunday Dispatch* £2,000 crossword; innumerable others, which in turn bred weekly papers quixotically devoted to nothing else but helping with the solutions. If you couldn't climb the tree, there might be a windfall.

Not much has been said yet about national and international politics. The figures, strutting and posturing, in retrospect seem a small multitude; and hardly one who was not patently a buffoon, a dolt, or a power-struck twister. Yet the interest in them was keen everywhere. It had dual aspects. On one hand, they provided the same kind of perennial spectacle and argument as television characters do today. On the other, they were associated with the sharply lengthening shadow of war.

Before the end of the depression everyone knew there was going to be another world war. A few years earlier, nobody would have believed it. I suppose it was about 1928 I overheard my father saying: 'There'll never be anoher war in our time. Or in *his*.' But about 1934 we watched aeroplanes overhead, and my mother said bitterly: 'They're practising to kill.' People talked about war, chiefly in dreadful reminiscence of the boys, the friends and cousins and my father's two brothers who had been killed in France not so many years before. Political sophisticates blamed the Versailles Treaty, and in 1934 Canon Sheppard started the Peace Pledge movement.

Pacifism spread, but there were other considerations. What *was* the answer to Fascism in Europe? Aldous Huxley presented the pacifist case in a pamphlet *What Are You Going To Do About It*?; Day Lewis replied in another *We Are Not Going To Do Nothing*, arguing that ends justified means. In the event, the question was answered by the Spanish Civil War, which established anti-Nazism and anti-Fascism as positive political faiths for the coming world war. R.B.

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Before the situation degenerates any further anarchists should attempt to wean the anti-racialist groups away from hypocritical politicians and infuse these groups with libertarian ideas. Any solution to the 'colour problem' must come spontaneously from the people. If the public can be made to see that the colour problem was created by small minded bigots who stand to profit by racial strife, the problem could be solved, despite politicians and race haters.

LIONEL DONNELLY.

LETTERS

Rhodesia & Us

Dear Sirs,

Jack Stevenson is quite correct in his analysis of Rhodesia in the April 16 edition.

I quote 'In Rhodesia itself the two main African parties, led by Joshua Nkomo and Sitole are more in opposition to each other than they are to Smith'.

Very true, and it would be best to draw comparisons with our own class war.

Divide and rule is a fair maxim. But who is dividing and ruling the working class today?

We have the Labour Party, Commu-

Whitsun Camp

Dear Comrades,

One of the results of the Manchester conference was the agreement to hold an informal camping weekend at Whitsun. This will be at Llangollen from the Whit Saturday until whenever people have to leave.

There is a choice of camping sites, most people will be at the Abbey Farm which is at the rear of the ruined 13th century Norman Abbey half way up the Horseshoe Pass, but some comrades will wish to camp in more secluded areas, of which there are ample in the area.

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We have this paper and that paper, and hundreds of magazines and they are ALL in competition with one another for money, ideas and individual members.

No wonder the Establishment goes on ruling.

When will we learn?

Best wishes,

*London, N.*19 MICHAEL SILVER.

Whitsun Camp

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Llangollen itself, of couse, is a very pleasantly situated holiday town, and there are more than enough cafes, etc., for people who do not wish to bother cooking.

Comrades interested, please bring own tents and sleeping bags. Last year our overspill had to sleep at the Merseyside Evangelical Mission who attempted to pervert our comrades by singing 'Bread of Heaven'!

If you would publish these details for the benefit of out-of-town comrades I would be most grateful.

Yours fraternally,

Salford 7, *Lancs.* ALAN BARLOW.

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archist Group 1&2

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h month at 8 p.m. at Donald 's, 148a Fellows Road, Swiss

LIBERTARIANS. Correspond- Cadman, 116 Tilehurst Road, S.W.19.

FEDERATIONS PS

OUP. Meets at the Adelphi Sunday. Correspondence to ghill Crescent, Aberdeen.

ARLESEY GROUP (N. Herts., S. Beds.). Meetings on first Friday of month. Correspondence to Peter and Maureen Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

BEXLEY ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence to Paul Wildish, 2 Cumbrian Avenue, Barnehurst, Kent.

BIRMINGHAM ANARCHIST GROUP. Correspondence: Martin Bragg, 5 The Drive, Hunton Hill, Erdington, Birmingham, 23. Sales and Committee of 100: Gordon Causer, 27 Upper Gungate, Tamworth, Staffs. Peace Action Centres Project: Paul James, 50 Windermere Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, 21. University of Aston Group: Dave Massey, 5 Gladstone Road, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

BRISTOL FEDERATION. Enquiries to Ian Vine, 3 Freeland Place, Hotwells, Bristol, 8.

CARDIFF ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Mike Crowley, 36 Whitaker Road, Tremorfa, Cardiff.

DUNDEE GROUP. Contact Bob and Una Turnbull, c/o Doctors' Residence, Stracathro Hospital, by Brechin, Angus.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP ONE. Correspondence to Robert Lynn, 2b Saracen Head Lane, Glasgow, C.1.

GLASGOW ANARCHIST GROUP TWO. Meets 11 Baliol Street every two weeks. Contact Joe Embleton.

HARLOW ANARCHIST GROUP. Enquiries to Keith Nathan, 12 Shawbridge, Harlow or John Barrick, 14 Centre Avenue, Epping.

ILFORD LIBERTARIANS. Regular meetings and direct action contact 212 Vicarage Road, Leyton, E.10.

LEICESTER ANARCHISTS. Correspondence, Peter Gibbon, 22 Fosse Road Central, West End, Leicester.

LEWISHAM, LONDON, S.E.13. 61b Granville Park. Next meeting, Thursday, May 26.

NORTH-WEST ESSEX. Meetings on the first Saturday of each month at 7.30 p.m. at Robert Barltrop's, The Old Vicarage, Radwinter, near Saffron Walden.

ORPINGTON ANARCHIST GROUP. Knockholt, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Every six weeks at Greenways, Knockholt. Phone: Knockholt 2316. Brian and Maureen Richardson.

OXFORD ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact H. G. Mellor, Merton College, Oxford.

PLYMOUTH ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Contact J. Hill, 79 Underlane, Plymstock, Plymouth, Devon.

READING ANARCHIST GROUP. Contact Alan Ross, 116 Belmont Road, Reading, Berks.

NORTH-WEST FEDERATION

NORTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION. Regional Secretary: J. Bromley, 44 Doncaster Avenue, Manchester, 20. Buxton: Chris Berrisford, 10 Byron Street, Buxton. Chorley: Alistair Rattray, 35a Devonshire Road, Chorley. Manchester: Mike Mitchell, 3 Bakewell Road, Droylesden, Manchester. Meetings every Tuesday 8 p.m. Lord Nelson, Chapel Street, Salford. Merseyside: Barbara Renshaw, 4 Clarence Road, Devonshire Park, Birkenhead. Rochdale: Ian Heywood, 16 Mansfield Road, Bamford, Rochdale. Stoke-on-Trent: Bob Blakeman, 52 Weldon Avenue, Weston Coyney, Stoke-on-Trent.

EAST LONDON FEDERATION

WALTHAM FOREST ANARCHISTS. Contact Lionel Donnelly, 322a Hoe Street, Walthamstow, E.17. Meetings every Thursday at above address.

WEST HAM ANARCHISTS. Contact Stephen Higgs, 8 Westbury Road, Forest Gate, E.7.

WEST LONDON FEDERATION

NORTHOLT ANARCHISTS. Contact: Jim Huggon, 173 Kingshill Avenue, Northolt, Middlesex. Meetings first and third Wednesday of the month at Jeannie's, 6 Epsom Close, Northolt Park, Middlesex, at 7.30 p.m.

SOUTHALL ANARCHIST GROUP. Get in touch with Roger Sandell, 58 Burns Avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

PROPOSED GROUPS

NOTTING HILL GATE. Anyone interested in reviving the libertarian group get in touch with Brian McGrath, 27 Arundel Gardens, London, W.11.

BELFAST, IRELAND. Contact Peter Stringer, 7 Duffy Street, Belfast, 13.

LONDON, CRYSTAL PALACE/NORWOOD. Please contact Bill and Kate Beveridge, 50 Camden Hill (3 rings), London, S.E.19.

MARLOW AND BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. Get in touch with Stella A. Fauser, 33a Spittal Street, Marlow, Bucks.

ALTRINCHAM YOUTH GROUP. Contact: Stephen Richards, 25 North Vale Road, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire.

SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE. Get in touch with Eric Harrison, 2 Cottage Aylesmore Farm, Shipston-on-Stour, Warwickshire.

ABROAD

NEW ZEALAND. Auckland Anarchist Group. Public Meetings every Sunday in Myers Park at 2 p.m.

USA. ALBANY, NEW YORK. Contact E. Strauss, 230 Washington Avenue, Albany. Discussion group meets about twice a month.

AUSTRALIA. Sydney Anarchist Group. Public meetings every Sunday in the Domain at 3 p.m.

ANOTHER VIEW OF TROGS

JOHN RETY'S ARTICLE on the Trogs demonstrates one of the dangers of taking articles from the popular Press and writing them up in FREEDOM, suitably adapted by overlaying the appropriate anarchist 'slant'.

In his commendable desire to defend the Trogs from any incursions on their liberty, Comrade Rety has actually pinned the blame on the wrong party, no doubt from an inherent distrust of clerics.

Some supporters of Birmingham Anarchist Group who went down to visit the Trogs a couple of weeks ago came back with a rather different impression from that obtained from 'reading between the lines' of the newspaper reports.

For a start, there can be little doubt that the sole culprit in the whole affair is the Press itself. Not only were the original 'orgy/drug' stories manufactured by the papers, but they also greatly exaggerated the attitude of the local people to the Trogs, which was by no means universally hostile. The Trogs tell us that they have little or no difficulty with the local shopkeepers, though admit that they are banned from certain pubs. (Incidentally, we also met a company director who was about to be ejected himself because he was wearing climbing gear, until the landlord saw his Rolls.)

Similarly, relations between the Trogs and the two police constables in charge of Matlock Bath were quite incredibly good, this despite a healthy disrespect for authority on the part of the Trogs. Inspector Fraser in Matlock itself had given orders that they should not be allowed to sit by the roadside, but otherwise there is little resentment among the Trogs against the police.

The Trogs' attitude to the staff of the evangelistic project is also far from hostile. While their reactions to the activities of the religionists range from amused cynicism to a serious consideration of their 'message', the Trogs were more than willing to go along to the project HQ for a free cup of coffee, biscuits, or even a night's kip. The staff of the project emphasised to us that their interest in the Trogs was simply that they were one section of a whole society in need of 'saving'; at no time was their approach the sensationalist one envisaged by John Rety. (It could, no doubt, still be argued that their kind of mission represents 'an intolerable incursion on people's freedom': this was indeed the substance of a letter we noticed in the local rag from one of Matlock's more 'respectable' citizens.)

On one issue the Trogs, the police, and the townspeople are agreed: they are all concerned at the amount of adverse publicity they have received at the hands of the Press. Ever since the Trogs became 'news' the town has been infested with hordes of motor-cycling 'Ravers', and there is strong evidence that, much as happened in the Mod/Rocker outbursts along the South Coast, the Press have actually created a problem by telling lies until they became true.

With regard to Councillor Tinti's plans to blow up or fill in the caves, it would appear that he has been as much misled by the Press as anyone else about the Trogs' activities. The 'caves' he was referring to, apparently, were the crevices in the rocks down by the river, where the Ravers, having all read their *Daily Mirrors*, now congregate in search of orgies; every weekend the local people are disturbed by their shouts, screams and the sound of motor-bikes.

We gather from Mrs. Tinti that the Trogs have sent a deputation to put their views to the Councillor and that the position is now clear, and that there is no danger of the council taking action against *their* caves. Perhaps Councillor Tinti is just a 'good' politician who wants to stay popular; unfortunately he took more notice of the Press version of public opinion than the real one.

Meanwhile the Trogs themselves are planning to 'go commercial'. They are trying to scrape together enough money to buy one of 'their' caves, the Cumberland Cavern. They would then 'do it up' and charge half-a-crown admission to the public. This may sound like a capitalist venture (c.f. anarchist badge-selling!), but may well be an ideal way of combining business with pleasure; financial security with 'security of tenure'.

MARTIN BRAGG.

For Political Freedom

ABOUT 100 people turned up on Sunday on a pleasant sunny day to march from Marble Arch to the Polish Embassy in Portland Place. A large variety of organisations were present, mainly from the dissident left. A large number of anarchists turned up and were the leading lights amongst the chanters. Somehow one wonders the appropriateness of slogans such as 'Disarm the Polish Police and Arm the Polish Proletariat', on a quiet Sunday afternoon in London. The demonstration was the first organised by the new ad hoc 'United Libertarian and Socialist Defence Committee' and they are to be praised for securing such a good turnout. As was quoted in last week's FREEDOM the demonstration was organised to protest against the imprisonment of members of the Polish Communist Party who produced a pamphlet attacking the State subsidy of the Roman Catholic Church in Poland. The leader of the group, Ludwig Hass, was also responsible for a pamphlet attacking the bureaucracy for 'having usurped the workers property'. Hass served many years in Soviet camps

Operation Hat-Trick

THE FIRST BRITISH Polaris base opens at Faslane on Thursday, June 30. During its period of construction

'President Johnson Prop to Keep Moon Free'

MUHAMMAD ALI (formerly Cassius Clay) is to fight in public with his fists, for money, an Englishman, Henry Cooper, who is also receiving money; but it is reported that Muhammad Ali is unwilling to fight the people of Vietnam with whatever weapons are handed to him (currently tear gas has been used). He is reported as stating to the draft board that he 'had no quarrel with the Vietcong'. . . .

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FIVE VIETNAMESE civilians, three of them women and one child were killed, and 29 other people, including eight Americans, wounded when US and South Vietnamese guards panicked after a Vietcong bomb explosion in Saigon. Passers-by were caught in the crossfire, which lasted nearly forty minutes. . . .

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Rightly, he obviously does not believe in charity. The very idea of charity is a product of the capitalist system. But what, until the social revolution comes, can the anarchist do to help other human beings who are the victims of the profit system? There can be only two courses open to him. He can devote all his time to propagating socialist and revolutionary ideas or he can aid various projects that alleviate the misery caused by the system.

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At their trial they were brought in handcuffs, the first time that political prisoners have been treated in this fashion since 1956. It is to be hoped that the demonstration has the effect of shaming the Polish government into releasing the prisoner as Gomulka, the Polish Party leader, was himself subjected to political imprisonment for raising his voice against the communist bureaucracy and should realise that interference with political liberty is the start of the long dark slide into Stalinism.

M. J. WALSH.

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MARTIN BRAGG.

Operation Hat-Trick

THE FIRST BRITISH Polaris base opens at Faslane on Thursday, June 30. During its period of construction members of the Scottish Committee of 100 and SYCND have held two large demos at the base, it cost us a few quid in fines, it cost the state hundreds in security precautions, and still we got in.

This will be our third demo at the base. On Saturday, June 25 a two-day march will leave Glasgow, sleeping overnight in Dumbarton. Let's make this a demo the state won't forget. Come along, preferably in bus loads (we are all optimists up here). Register your protest against British Polaris.

Contact Alan Sinclair, Flat 3a, 39 Mallaig Road, Glasgow, S.W.1.

P.S. Don't forget to bring your cameras.

more than 2,700 Vietnamese local government officials have been killed or kidnapped by NLF since 1964. According to *National Guardian* figures (compiled from official Pentagon sources), US casualties in Vietnam from January 1 to April 16 are 3,407 killed, 640 'non combat' deaths, 15,866 wounded, missing and captured 242. According to US

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The first is the theoretically correct one and would doubtless be endorsed by 'Bakunin'. But how soon would one retain one's sanity if one immersed oneself in struggle, day in, day out. To say nothing of the fact that the people are not going to take any notice anyway. The second course at least gives the revolutionary the chance to meet people who are at least committed to doing *something*. People who do something may some day be persuaded to do everything.

Five anarchists spend three days in the cold of a Scottish winter fasting to collect money for War on Want. We got a hell of a sight more support from the people for this than we would have got if we'd been carrying out a political demo. People knew who we were, but they gave nevertheless. We collected £173. This has been sent to a destitutes fund in Hong Kong. Would Bakunin suggest that we should not have done this, since it was not revolutionary action? Would he suggest that people be left to starve, until the millenium?

Too often comrades, the revolutionary pose is an excuse for doing nothing. Anarchists ought to be founding community projects but most of the ones I know spend their time in the pubs. When someone else does what we should have done, we use their beliefs to attack them. That is hypocrisy.

As soon as I have some spare cash I intend to pass some of it on to the American girl for her Puerto Rican slum project. Incidentally, if 'Bakunin' disagrees with charity, would he refuse to help the people of Kinghill? After all they are not anarchists. In fact some of them may be Catholics.

Bakunin should go back to the grave.

Yours fraternally,

PETER THE PAINTER.

LETT & Cont

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OUT OF THIS WORLD

'President Johnson Proposes Treaty to Keep Moon Free'—*US Information Service Bulletin*

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THE SAME issue of the *New Statesman* quotes a *New York Times* report that US soldiers in Vietnam are now using their own money to hire Nung tribesmen at five dollars a day, to do the dirty work, such as torturing suspects. One *Times* photo shows Nungs (who worked with the French and Chiang Kai-shek) hanging a prisoner upside down—'after fifteen minutes in this position he admitted he was a sniper'. Two other pictures of Nungs at work are shown, reports the *New Statesman*. Three British Hovercraft are reported to be at work in Vietnam. The new arms salesman for the British government has been appointed. Mr. Healey, Secretary for Defence, in announcing the appointment said when questioned, 'About Vietnam, we regard the United States as a country to whom we are perfectly free and indeed anxious to sell arms and we would not seek to impose any limitation on the use of the arms we sell.' Hampstead Labour Party has undertaken to 're-examine its relationship with the national Labour Party' if the British government makes any military commitment in the Vietnam war. It will invite other Labour Parties to do the same. This resolution, says Mr. Keohame, is 'not just an empty threat'. *The Newsletter* quoting Trotsky (who else?) on the spirit of the Vietnamese revolutionist, 'It is not in their capacity to kill, but in their readiness to die that distinguishes a revolutionary people.' . . .

ATMOSPHERIC fall-out was substantially increased by the explosion of a Chinese bomb. Twenty CND members demonstrated at the Chinese Embassy. The Americans conducted another underground test. Prior to these tests the level of strontium in the British Isles was reported to have fallen. . . .

A MATCH at Stamford Bridge between Chelsea and Barcelona was described in the *Telegraph*, 'For much of the game the stands and terraces roared their approval of every Chelsea move and screamed their dislike of the Spaniards. At times they seemed almost to be baying for blood. Football was not meant to arouse such passion.' However this is only a game, for two anarchists holding a banner demanding the release of political prisoners were escorted from the ground an hour before the game began. Meanwhile, back in Barcelona a procession of 150 priests was broken up by police truncheon charges. The priests were protesting at ill-treatment of a university student. It has been hinted that the police may be excommunicated as a punishment.

JON QUIXOTE.

LETTERS & Controversy

Back to your Grave, Bakunin!

Dear Comrades,

'Michael Bakunin' does not like Catholics and their Church. Nor do I. But his attitude seems to be that *any* Catholic activity is to be avoided and attacked by anarchists. Near where I live is a large Catholic orphanage, full of what are usually called 'underprivileged' kids. This institution is almost always short of money, and the nuns spend their time going round the doors in all weathers asking for cash. Does Bakunin suggest that I turn them from my door?

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Liberal Studies

The mind boggles! When I read a report in the *Guardian* of a recent TV programme in which US officers were shown being taught torture techniques I felt so sick I dashed off a vitriolic letter to Peter Simple (the first person I thought of) enclosing a wad of toilet paper and asking him to distribute a piece to all journalists, politicians, clergy, TU bosses, etc., none of whom have protested, to my knowledge, so they could wipe their mouths after receiving their pay-packets.

To my amazement back came a mild little letter from Simple stating he had not seen the programme but expressing

Man's dignity came about originally, because by working he subdued the forces of nature. To leave the work in this way to machines is to lay oneself open to a maternal dependence on a mental worship of machines (man is still, in some ways, a child and fetish-monger, including myself and Mr. Cunniffe).

Also, what is 'creative' and what 'non-creative'? Isn't it authoritarian to lay down the law on this? Surely men will decide this pragmatically, when the time comes and we have more freedom of choice! A world full of one sort or another of 'creative' people ('creative' defined according to the norms of a bourgeois culture based on exploitation of labour?) is likely to resemble the top-of-the-pops with n-number of imitation Dylans, Ginsbergs, Moores, Brunels, Gauguins, Russells, and Einsteins, etc. What a bore and a drag! (unless we all take up Buddhism, Taoism or what have you—even if our temperaments don't suit).

The incidence of physical and mentally destructive drug-taking will soar, especially in a free society, where self-discipline will require patient labour to facilitate its development as well as pearls of wisdom from FREEDOM—written creatively, Chinese-style in verse to keep

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MARTIN BRAGG.

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MONTHLY

or 30c. by post)
rday of each month.

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1 year 65s. ($9.50)

Press

ROAD,
Phone: RENown 3736

17a Maxwell Road, London, S.W.6.

According to US Information Service more than 2,700 Vietnamese local government officials have been killed or kidnapped by NLF since 1964. According to *National Guardian* figures (compiled from official Pentagon sources), US casualties in Vietnam from January 1 to April 16 are 3,407 killed, 640 'non combat' deaths, 15,866 wounded, missing and captured 242. According to US man for the British government has been appointed. Mr. Healey, Secretary for Defence, in announcing the appointment said when questioned, 'About Vietnam, we regard the United States as a country to whom we are perfectly free and indeed anxious to sell arms and we would not seek to impose any limitation on the use of the arms we sell.' Hampstead Labour Party has undertaken to the ground an hour before the game began. Meanwhile, back in Barcelona a procession of 150 priests was broken up by police truncheon charges. The priests were protesting at ill-treatment of a university student. It has been hinted that the police may be excommunicated as a punishment.

JON QUIXOTE.

Back to your Grave, Bakunin !

Dear Comrades,

'Michael Bakunin' does not like Catholics and their Church. Nor do I. But his attitude seems to be that *any* Catholic activity is to be avoided and attacked by anarchists. Near where I live is a large Catholic orphanage, full of what are usually called 'underprivileged' kids. This institution is almost always short of money, and the nuns spend their time going round the doors in all weathers asking for cash. Does Bakunin suggest that I turn them from my door?

Rightly, he obviously does not believe in charity. The very idea of charity is a product of the capitalist system. But what, until the social revolution comes, can the anarchist do to help other human beings who are the victims of the profit system? There can be only two courses open to him. He can devote all his time to propagating socialist and revolutionary ideas or he can aid various projects that alleviate the misery caused by the system.

The first is the theoretically correct one and would doubtless be endorsed by 'Bakunin'. But how soon would one retain one's sanity if one immersed oneself in struggle, day in, day out. To say nothing of the fact that the people are not going to take any notice anyway. The second course at least gives the revolutionary the chance to meet people who are at least committed to doing *something*. People who do something may some day be persuaded to do everything.

Five anarchists spend three days in the cold of a Scottish winter fasting to collect money for War on Want. We got a hell of a sight more support from the people for this than we would have got if we'd been carrying out a political demo. People knew who we were, but they gave nevertheless. We collected £173. This has been sent to a destitutes fund in Hong Kong. Would Bakunin suggest that we should not have done this, since it was not revolutionary action? Would he suggest that people be left to starve, until the millenium?

Too often comrades, the revolutionary pose is an excuse for doing nothing. Anarchists ought to be founding community projects but most of the ones I know spend their time in the pubs. When someone else does what we should have done, we use their beliefs to attack them. That is hypocrisy.

As soon as I have some spare cash I intend to pass some of it on to the American girl for her Puerto Rican slum project. Incidentally, if 'Bakunin' disagrees with charity, would he refuse to help the people of Kinghill? After all they are not anarchists. In fact some of them may be Catholics.

Bakunin should go back to the grave.

Yours fraternally,

PETER THE PAINTER.

LETTERS & Controversy

Liberal Studies

The mind boggles! When I read a report in the *Guardian* of a recent TV programme in which US officers were shown being taught torture techniques I felt so sick I dashed off a vitriolic letter to Peter Simple (the first person I thought of) enclosing a wad of toilet paper and asking him to distribute a piece to all journalists, politicians, clergy, TU bosses, etc., none of whom have protested, to my knowledge, so they could wipe their mouths after receiving their pay-packets.

To my amazement back came a mild little letter from Simple stating he had not seen the programme but expressing concern if the *Guardian* report was correct. Is Simple, then, sincere after all, and not just a propagandist? Or is his answer just a dodge, to hook me by pretending he's really concerned about torture?

It now seems from the *Guardian*, that the officers may have been taught torture so as to learn how to *resist* it. However, whether official or unofficial, torture is widely used in Vietnam by all the warring parties. Also (this is the amazing bit) the officers in the programme were shown *actually trying out the techniques on each other*. The mind boggles!

Best wishes,

London JEFF ROBINSON.

Is Work a Curse !

Dear Comrades,

Laurence Cunniffe's comment on 'workers' control' in last week's FREEDOM seems to me naïve, and more likely to put off workers than endear them to anarchistic automation. I work for the Mersey River Board. Our foreman takes creative pride in concreting, levelling and grass-seeding the river bank—you can't do that with machines—and likewise with other jobs!

Such comments can result from: (1) being fed up with work as under the capitalist system (a motive common to beatniks, but extremes never did lead to a new society); (2) technical ignorance of the many jobs (simple formulae look foolish in a complex many-sided culture); or (3) unconscious artistic snobbery (as a poet I say I get satisfaction because I do it freely, not only because it is 'art').

Man's dignity came about originally, because by working he subdued the forces of nature. To leave the work in this way to machines is to lay oneself open to a maternal dependence on a mental worship of machines (man is still, in some ways, a child and fetish-monger, including myself and Mr. Cunniffe).

Also, what is 'creative' and what 'non-creative'? Isn't it authoritarian to lay down the law on this? Surely men will decide this pragmatically, when the time comes and we have more freedom of choice! A world full of one sort or another of 'creative' people ('creative' defined according to the norms of a bourgeois culture based on exploitation of labour?) is likely to resemble the top-of-the-pops with n-number of imitation Dylans, Ginsbergs, Moores, Brunels, Gauguins, Russells, and Einsteins, etc. What a bore and a drag! (unless we all take up Buddhism, Taoism or what have you—even if our temperaments don't suit).

The incidence of physical and mentally destructive drug-taking will soar, especially in a free society, where self-discipline will require patient labour to facilitate its development as well as pearls of wisdom from FREEDOM—written creatively, Chinese-style in verse to keep the poets employed, of course.

The dream of ease and automation is a reaction to excessive toil—its cruder counterpart among workers is the 'easy-money' 'get-rich-quick' aspect of gambling, and skiving (I know). Just let's not be deceived by clichés, then we'll get somewhere.

Manchester DAVID STRINGER.

PRESS FUND

WEEK 19, MAY 14, 1966:

Expenses: 19 weeks at £80:	**£1520**
Income: Sales and Subs.:	**£1165**
DEFICIT:	**£355**

Austin: S.O.S. 6/6; **Cambourne:** D.T. 5/3; **St. Austell:** A.J. 5/-; **Hants.:** T.B. £1; **Berkeley:** D.J. £3/15/-; **Toronto:** A.B. £13; **Oxford:** Anon* 10/-; **London, S.W.3:** Anon 4/-; **Exmouth:** A.H. 9/-; **Wolverhampton:** J.K.W.* 2/-; J.L.* 3/-; **Cheltenham:** L.G.W.* 10/-; **London, S.E.2:** G.H. 8/-; **London, E.6:** B.S. 7/-; **California:** S.B. 10/6; **Eden Bridge:** C.D. 5/-; **Sheffield:** R.L. 11/-; **Pevensey:** A.A. 5/-; **New York:** B.C. 14/8; **Norwich:** D.E. 3/6; **Chalfont St. Peter:** J.H. 5/-.

TOTAL:	**£23 19 5**
Previously Acknowledged:	**£371 12 7**
1966 Total to Date:	**£395 12 0**

***Denotes Regular Contributors.**

Gifts of Books. **Edgware:** M.K.; **London, S.W.1:** E.B.

Seamen vs. the State

UNLESS THE SHIPPING Federation increase their offer, the seamen's strike will drag on. As the odds are a million to one against this happening, the seamen are preparing for a tough struggle. The clear cut issue is seamen versus the employers plus the government, and the seamen will be part of the 'showdown' that had to come with some section of industry sooner or later.

The *Financial Times* in its editorial on May 14 reflects the employer-government attitude. 'The very inconvenience caused by a shipping strike, in fact, may help to bring about a change in the public attitude towards wage claims and cause everyone to tread more carefully in future. If that were to happen, we should have a considerable and lasting gain to balance against the immediate loss.' In other words the seamen have got to be beaten at all costs as a warning to others.

The national press have taken this point up in various ways in all the editorials. One of the most vicious was the *Sunday Telegraph* of May 15. 'If greed and selfishness are outstanding characteristics of the British today they are fully exemplified in the National Union of Seamen and its decision to strike.' It goes on to say, 'They have refused to abate by one iota their demand for what amounts to a 17 per cent increase in earnings whilst already some average £20 a week and all found.'

The gentleman who had the gall to write that editorial probably gets that amount for just writing that diatribe alone, he must be really 'burnt out' after that effort.

Getting back to the truth for a moment, the NUS have issued a leaflet entitled 'The Target is 40 Hours'. In it they quote the wonderful 1965 agreement which meant that an AB received a monthly sum of £8 2s. 8d. in the consolidated basic rate for adult ratings to compensate for up to eight hours work each on Saturdays and Sundays when a ship is at sea. This meant, of course, that seamen had to be prepared to work a seven day week of eight hours each day at sea to get it.

The *SPIRIT* of the agreement was that the existing pattern of work should continue. In fact seamen would only be called upon to do the Saturday and Sunday hours when absolutely necessary. Running true to form, some of the shipping employers watered down the 'spirit' and *purposely* found jobs for the seamen on Saturday and Sunday like the very vital task of *cleaning hand rails*. Obviously this sort of mercenary action by some of the employers all helped to stir up the seamen. In consequence seamen are saying, 'To hell with agreements that employers can drive a coach and horses through, we want a three years with a standstill on further wage increase for three years, unless there is a steep rise in living costs. Who determines a 'steep rise'? Most certainly the employers would never admit to a steep rise, and the government couldn't because to them it would mean admitting defeat of their Prices and Incomes Policy. On that basis the seamen could be right back where they are now, amongst the lowest paid seamen in the world.

The rank and file seamen quite rightly rejected the offer flat, *despite the fact that Mr. Hogarth and the negotiating committee were ready to accept.*

After the war seamen were promised wonderful conditions, in recognition of their valiant war service, they received bugger all. They were promised a revision of the penal clauses of the Merchant Shipping Acts, needless to say there has been no revision. It's no good Harold Wilson, Gunter or the employers now saying this could be reviewed under a general enquiry. Twenty-one years is long enough to amend any Act even by the windbags at Westminster.

Perusing the Sunday press I expected to find some bright spark wanting to make some strikes illegal. I wasn't disappointed. Quintin Hogg in the *Sunday Express* (15.5.66) was screaming for that very action. He states how daddy's Trade Dispute Act of 1927 prohibited political strikes, and how it was repealed by the Attlee Government in 1945. Quintin then winds up with a wonderful last paragraph. 'No one doubts that free and independent trades unions have a vital and responsible part to play in modern industrial society. But no one should be above the law, or set themselves up to dictate to Parliament the terms on which Britain should be permitted to live. If the nation does not assert itself to end this lawlessness and chaos, we do not deserve to continue to flourish as a free people in the modern world.'

How the hell can a trade union be free and independent when it is forbidden by law to strike? It would have been far better if he had written what he really meant. Trade unions are a necessary evil providing they do not respond to the wishes of their members but conform to the wishes of the employers and the establishment. In other words a training ground in the interest of the present system.

From 12 o'clock tonight it appears that the Royal Navy is going to be pretty busy on a 'towing operation' but the dockers are prepared to counteract this move, 'black ships' will not be unloaded. This example of solidarity is excellent. Let's hope that this liaison doesn't break down when the dispute is over. Dockers and seamen have a lot in common

Contact Column

Room and Work. Woman reader (mid-forties) will need room and work when leaves psychiatric hospital. Offers of either or both to Box 30.

Research. Wanted for Research purposes —Committee of 100. Old copies Resistance vol. 1, 2 (1-5); 3 (1, 3-7), London Committee Bulletin, Action for Peace, Pamphlets, Leaflets, Circulars, National, London, Regional. Original Price or offers, plus postage to Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, 23.

Accommodation Wanted. Wanted, large flat, W.2, W.11 for Notting Hill Gate anarchists. Any information regarding a reasonably priced flat will be gratefully received. Please contact M. Fitton, Flat 35, 37 Clanricarde Gardens, W.2 (Nr. Notting Hill Gate underground station) evenings.

Comrades wanted to take part in anti-war pageant. May 28. Details from: Myrtle Solomon, EUS 5501.

Accommodation Vacant. Half flat vacant. Phone Bucknell CUN 4576.

Aberdeen Vietnam Week. June 5-11. Pickets, leafleting, teach-in, meetings, vigil, etc. Details, support to Bob Comrie, 288 Hardgate, Aberdeen, Scotland.

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Hospitality wanted. Sixteen-year-old comrade (male) from Paris would like to stay with family during summer vacation. Write Box 29.

King Hill Hostel. Demonstration outside Minister of Health's house. Meet 3 p.m. Kentish Town tube station, Sunday, May 22.

Job/Girl/Country. 16-year-old comrade (working-girl, not student) with problem parent (widow) seeks permanent job in country. Preferably near some Peace/Political Activity evenings and weekends. Anything considered. Contact through Peter Neville, 12 South Grove, Erdington, Birmingham, 23, urgently.

Accommodation Offered. To responsible person in return for taking child to school some days and a (very) little housework. Write 15 Pennine Mansions, Pennine Drive, Golders Green, N.W.11 or phone MEA 1872.

Accommodation. Young couple seeking accommodation in West or NW London with view to communal flat. Not too expensive. Grateful for any type of reply. Box 27.

Accommodation. Flat or rooms required in London area (preferably unfurnished) by teacher and wife. For one-year period from September. P. and M. Ford, 102 Stotfold Road, Arlesey, Beds.

Accommodation Vacant. One bunk empty—happy, tolerant girl wanted in s/c flat, in lowest Lambeth, details REL 5224.

Accommodation wanted. Accommodation needed by couple (small income) with boy of 2½ and baby. London. Preferred unfurnished. Reliable and considerate. Box 23.

If you wish to make contact let us know.

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The gentleman who had the gall to write that editorial probably gets that amount for just writing that diatribe alone, he must be really 'burnt out' after that effort.

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The employers' offer, and final offer, was a 40 hour week over

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BILL CHRISTOPHER.

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change their minds. They would do well to learn from what has occurred in Russia. Although Soviet authorities vehemently deny it, there seems to be no doubt that before the Tashkent earthquake, in which several people had been killed, there had been underground tests at Karaganda, 500 miles to the north of Tashkent. There seems to be little doubt that these tests had, in fact, induced the earthquake at Tashkent. It also seems very odd that the Soviet Union did everything in their power to kill the story and even forbade foreign correspondents to visit the area. The only news has come through Tass, the official news agency, it has kept saying that damage was minimal. The Swedish seismological observatory at Uppsala is quite definite that there had been a large-scale underground explosion in the Karaganda area just prior to the Tashkent earthquake. It seems quite likely, therefore, that the Soviet authorities who exerted censorship at Tashkent were only too well aware on whose shoulders the responsibilities rest.

THE COST OF THE WORKERS' BOMB

Reports coming through from the radiology detection centres in Japan indicate that the Chinese exploded a high yield atomic device in order to deceive western intelligence experts into believing that the Chinese had exploded a thermo-nuclear weapon. It seems extremely

Nuclear Earthquake

improbable that the Chinese communist régime could have developed such a device so quickly and, in order to bluff 'the paper tiger', they resorted to a trick. The consequences of their action are, however, very serious for the people of Northern China. It seems very likely that, for its size, it was one of the 'dirtiest' bombs ever exploded. The Japanese are worried about possible fall-out risk to themselves, and are certain that the North Chinese provinces will be contaminated. Certainly enough to affect milk and other forms of food.

TECHNICAL DRAIN

The Chinese government appear to have siphoned off a great number of technicians and scientists towards the nuclear bomb projects. In a country where trained technologists are at a premium it seems that this definitely indicates that the Chinese communists have chosen guns rather than butter. It seems very sad that a poor nation which was trying to improve the lot of the largest group of people in the world should prefer revenge to the conquest of bread.

NEED FOR DISARMAMENT

It seems quite obvious to any anarchist that the most urgent thing needed today is disarmament. It seems equally obvious

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Freedom

For Workers' Control

MAY 21 1966 Vol 27 No 16

A 'BASIC GULF'

THE STATE is increasingly opposing the workers' struggle to maintain and improve wages and conditions. Its present economic role in society is a far cry from that of the 'laisser-faire' period of capitalism and this is partly due to the increased power of organised labour. It is not only the largest employer but actively assists private employers in resisting the demands of their employees.

The State is strengthening capitalism and assisting in its monopolistic trends. Monopoly capitalism fits snugly in with the State's centralised planning and control. Workers are beginning to feel the effects. The Incomes Policy showed how the Government was thinking and the proposed early warning legislation shows that they have every intention of carrying out this policy.

With regard to the seamen, any showdown with the Government has been avoided up until now. Wilson's last minute intervention in the rail dispute prevented what some managements would like to have seen for although they talk about 'lost production' and how the 'country's prosperity is bound to suffer', they are nevertheless willing to do battle with their employees. They saw the rail strike as one where organised labour could have been taught a lesson. It would, they say, have enforced the Government's Incomes Policy and shown 'our' foreign creditors that 'we' meant business.

TAKING ON THE SEAMEN

With regard to the seamen's strike, the *Financial Times* says: 'Uncertain as the outlook may be at present, it is important to remember that a strike would not be pure loss to the economy. Some time, if it is ever to get wage inflation under control, the Government has to face the inconvenience of a major strike. It might have chosen better ground (railwaymen) on which to stand perhaps, but no ground is perfect, and the Budget left so much to the incomes policy that another surrender immediately after it would have shaken overseas confidence

If the Government stands by its incomes policy, then further industrial disputes are likely to occur. If the management-State line up wins in these disputes, there could be considerable structural changes, a general rationalisation of manpower and the introduction of new methods of production which are being resisted at the moment.

Although 'our' lack of ability to compete in the international markets is nearly always attributed to strikes, a look at the International Labour Office's figures show a different story. In the United Kingdom, the number of working days lost per thousand of working people for the five years ended 1964 was only 242, compared with 1,220 in Italy and 722 in the United States. In fact the number of days lost as the result of accidents is far higher.

'THEM' AND 'US'

William Davis, financial editor of the *Guardian*, says: 'There is still a basic gulf between employer and employee in this country—a "them" and "us" approach which does immense damage.' Judging by the ILO strike tables, it appears that the 'them' and 'us' attitude prevails in other countries as well and that this does show a 'basic gulf'. It will always be there while we have an employer-employee set up and while a minority controls the means of production. While competition for markets goes on, each capitalist power will try to solve its problems at the expense of the workers. This may have taken a harsher form in the past, but nevertheless it remains essentially the same today.

This 'basic gulf' comes up again in a Stationery Office pamphlet called 'Attitudes to Efficiency'. This says that the profit motive is less accepted in this country than in other Western industrial countries. It puts up ideas to be introduced to dispel the employee's distrust of managements. With regard to manpower inefficiency, it says that imaginative management is needed 'coupled with a recognition that negotiation is essential to secure the abandonment of many wasteful practices'.

Security and status would influence

three years with a standstill on further wage increase for three years, unless there is a steep rise in living costs. Who determines a 'steep rise'? Most certainly the employers would never admit to a steep rise, and the government couldn't because to them it would mean admitting defeat of their Prices and Incomes Policy. On that basis the seamen could be right back where they are now, amongst the lowest paid seamen in the world.

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After the war seamen were promised wonderful conditions, in recognition of their valiant war service, they received bugger all. They were promised a revision of the penal clauses of the Merchant Shipping Acts, needless to say there has been no revision. It's no good Harold Wilson, Gunter or the employers now saying this could be reviewed under a general enquiry. Twenty-one years is long enough to amend any Act even by the windbags at Westminster.

Perusing the Sunday press I expected to find some bright spark wanting to make some strikes illegal. I wasn't disappointed. Quintin Hogg in the *Sunday Express* (15.5.66) was screaming for that very action. He states how daddy's Trade Dispute Act of 1927 prohibited political strikes, and how it was repealed by the Attlee Government in 1945. Quintin then winds up with a wonderful last paragraph. 'No one doubts that free and independent trades unions have a vital and responsible part to play in modern industrial society. But no one should be above the law, or set themselves up to dictate to Parliament the terms on which Britain should be permitted to live. If the nation does not assert itself to end this lawlessness and chaos, we do not deserve to continue to flourish as a free people in the modern world.'

How the hell can a trade union be free and independent when it is forbidden by law to strike? It would have been far better if he had written what he really meant. Trade unions are a necessary evil providing they do not respond to the wishes of their members but conform to the wishes of the employers and the establishment. In other words a training ground in the interest of the present system.

From 12 o'clock tonight it appears that the Royal Navy is going to be pretty busy on a 'towing operation' but the dockers are prepared to counteract this move, 'black ships' will not be unloaded. This example of solidarity is excellent. Let's hope that this liaison doesn't break down when the dispute is over. Dockers

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BILL CHRISTOPHER.

The State is strengthening capitalism and assisting in its monopolistic trends. Monopoly capitalism fits snugly in with the State's centralised planning and control. Workers are beginning to feel the effects. The Incomes Policy showed how the Government was thinking and the proposed early warning legislation shows that they have every intention of carrying out this policy.

With regard to the seamen, any showdown with the Government has been avoided up until now. Wilson's last minute intervention in the rail dispute prevented what some managements would like to have seen for although they talk about 'lost production' and how the 'country's prosperity is bound to suffer', they are nevertheless willing to do battle with their employees. They saw the rail strike as one where organised labour could have been taught a lesson. It would, they say, have enforced the Government's Incomes Policy and shown 'our' foreign creditors that 'we' meant business.

TAKING ON THE SEAMEN

With regard to the seamen's strike, the *Financial Times* says: 'Uncertain as the outlook may be at present, it is important to remember that a strike would not be pure loss to the economy. Some time, if it is ever to get wage inflation under control, the Government has to face the inconvenience of a major strike. It might have chosen better ground (railwaymen) on which to stand perhaps, but no ground is perfect, and the Budget left so much to the incomes policy that another surrender immediately after it would have shaken overseas confidence both in the Government's policies and in sterling.' From this it appears that far from being 'disastrous', in the long term a strike could be a good thing, providing of course that the strikers give in.

always attributed to strikes, a look at the International Labour Office's figures show a different story. In the United Kingdom, the number of working days lost per thousand of working people for the five years ended 1964 was only 242. compared with 1,220 in Italy and 722 in the United States. In fact the number of days lost as the result of accidents is far higher.

'THEM' AND 'US'

William Davis, financial editor of the *Guardian*, says: 'There is still a basic gulf between employer and employee in this country—a "them" and "us" approach which does immense damage.' Judging by the ILO strike tables, it appears that the 'them' and 'us' attitude prevails in other countries as well and that this does show a 'basic gulf'. It will always be there while we have an employer-employee set up and while a minority controls the means of production. While competition for markets goes on, each capitalist power will try to solve its problems at the expense of the workers. This may have taken a harsher form in the past, but nevertheless it remains essentially the same today.

This 'basic gulf' comes up again in a Stationery Office pamphlet called 'Attitudes to Efficiency'. This says that the profit motive is less accepted in this country than in other Western industrial countries. It puts up ideas to be introduced to dispel the employee's distrust of managements. With regard to manpower inefficiency, it says that imaginative management is needed 'coupled with a recognition that negotiation is essential to secure the abandonment of many wasteful practices'.

Security and status would influence workers' attitudes. Staff status, sick pay schemes, procedure for appeal against dismissal and joint consultation are some of the reforms suggested in the pamphlet, but these will bring benefits at a price for these things are not given away, only won. All sorts of schemes might be thought out and introduced and every effort will no doubt be made to try to show that the interests of workers and management are really one and that they are a partnership, with common ground existing between them.

Managements need workers, but workers do not need managements. They could take over, run and control industry for the benefit of the community instead of for the profit of a few.

P.T.

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Nuclear Earthquake

improbable that the Chinese communist régime could have developed such a device so quickly and, in order to bluff 'the paper tiger', they resorted to a trick. The consequences of their action are, however, very serious for the people of Northern China. It seems very likely that, for its size, it was one of the 'dirtiest' bombs ever exploded. The Japanese are worried about possible fall-out risk to themselves, and are certain that the North Chinese provinces will be contaminated. Certainly enough to affect milk and other forms of food.

TECHNICAL DRAIN

The Chinese government appear to have siphoned off a great number of technicians and scientists towards the nuclear bomb projects. In a country where trained technologists are at a premium it seems that this definitely indicates that the Chinese communists have chosen guns rather than butter. It seems very sad that a poor nation which was trying to improve the lot of the largest group of people in the world should prefer revenge to the conquest of bread.

NEED FOR DISARMAMENT

It seems quite obvious to any anarchist that the most urgent thing needed today is disarmament. It seems equally obvious that, with the kind of madmen loose at the top of governments today, international disarmament is an impossibility. The only thing that can be done is to try and make sure that these weapons are never used from the territory of this country by any power. Any means possible is admirable for this end. **D.W.**

'Anarchy' held up by Censorship

SUBSCRIBERS to *Anarchy*, our sister-paper, will experience some delay in receiving it this month. Complicated as its production schedule is, due to block-makers, artists, typesetters, proof readers, printers, machine-minders, there is a further complication (not known to FREEDOM) of 'the binders'. This month's issue was in their hands and awaiting completed delivery when a phone call was received that one of the higher-ups in the bookbinders had called attention to the back cover illustration and had given it as his opinion that there might be some objection on the part of the women workers to handling it. The forewoman was consulted and it was reported as her opinion 'That she couldn't put it through the women workers'.

The Freudian significance of this reported remark was not lost upon its recipient when it was recalled that the back cover of *Anarchy* contains a picture of a nude man by David whose penis has been lashed into some complex torture-device. In the face of this refusal the only thing to do was to transfer the binding to a less prudish firm.

However, the incident is illustrative of the care people take not to offend *other* people's assumed susceptibilities. Not one of the persons drawn into this account was saying that he (or she) objected to this personally, and if he or she did one could understand, without, of course, forgiving.

J.R.